

1. A method for providing a retinal stimulator to a mammalian eye having an internal limiting membrane, the method comprising
- visualizing the internal limiting membrane of the eye,
- locating the retinal stimulator between the internal limiting
- membrane and the retina, and
- using the internal limiting membrane to secure the retinal stimulator.

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2. The method of claim 1 wherein the retinal stimulator comprises a drug.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the retinal stimulator comprises a device.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the device is an array for electrostimulation of the retina.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein the device has external connectors.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the substance is in a delivery vehicle.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the delivery vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a capsule, a bead, a liposome, a sphere, a dissolvable biocompatible polymer sheet, and combinations thereof.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the delivery vehicle provides slow-release drug delivery.

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9. A method for effecting treatment of a retina in a mammal comprising providing a therapeutic or preventive retinal stimulator between an internal limiting membrane and the retina to contact the retina and stimulate retinal cells to effect treatment.

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The method of claim <sup>10</sup>~~9~~ wherein the treatment effected is for a condition selected from the group consisting of retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, a degenerative retinal disease, and combinations thereof.

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The method of claim <sup>10</sup>~~9~~ wherein the substance is a semiconductor microphotodiode array.

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The method of claim <sup>10</sup>~~9~~ wherein the substance is an electrode array.

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The method of claim 9 wherein the substance is a vehicle containing a drug.

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The method of claim <sup>22</sup>~~13~~ wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of an  $\alpha$ -adrenergic agonist, a  $\beta$ -adrenergic agonist, an antiinflammatory agent, an antiproliferative agent, and combinations thereof.

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The method of claim 9 wherein the retinal cells stimulated are selected from the group consisting of photoreceptor cells, ganglion cells, neurofiber cells, and combinations thereof.

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A method for enhancing vision in a patient having decreased vision due to retinal pathology or injury comprising locating a retinal stimulator substance between an internal limiting membrane and the retina, the substance capable of stimulating the retina to enhance visual function.

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The method of claim ~~16~~<sup>15</sup> wherein the substance is a photostimulated semiconductor microphotodiode array.

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The method of claim ~~17~~<sup>16</sup> further comprising providing a light source to stimulate the array.

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The method of claim ~~18~~<sup>15</sup> wherein the substance is an electrically stimulated electrode array.

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The method of claim ~~19~~<sup>18</sup> further comprising providing an electrical source to stimulate the array.

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The method of claim ~~20~~<sup>15</sup> wherein the patient has a retinal pathology selected from the group consisting of retinitis pigmentosa, macular degeneration, a retinal degenerative disease, and combinations thereof.

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